

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-23 were pending, with claims 3-4 and 9-10 being withdrawn from consideration. This amendment cancels claims 3-4, 9-10, 12, 16, 18, 20, and 22.

Applicants would thank the Examiner for reviewing a draft version of the claim amendments submitted on September 13, 2005. It is believed that agreement as to the allowability of the amended claims has been reached (based on the references of record).

The Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 6 and 19 have been amended to specify that the blasting system includes a communication firewall comprising a locking device for placing the communication link in a control mode or an operational mode, an electronic filter and two communication interfaces adapted to allow communication to take place with the communication link. Support for this amendment is found at Figures 1 and 2 and in the specification at page 4, lines 23-25 and page 5, lines 4-6.

Claims 7 and 21 have been amended to specify that the blasting system includes a communication firewall comprising a locking device for placing the communication link in a control mode or an operational mode, an electronic filter and two communication interfaces adapted to allow communication to take place with the communication link. Support for this amendment is found at Figures 1 and 2 and in the specification at page 4, lines 23-25 and page 5, lines 4-6. Claims 7 and 21 have been further amended to delete duplicative description of the communication link as being capable of being placed in a control mode and a control mode. Claims 7 and 21 have also been amended to delete reference to a monitoring device since the monitoring device may be a filter (page 6, lines 11-12 of the specification and claim 12 as filed).

Please cancel claims 3-4, 9-10, 12, 16, 18, 20 and 22 without prejudice. Claims 3-4 and 9-10 were withdrawn. Claims 12, 16 and 20 have been cancelled as

being redundant in view of amended claim 7. Claim 18 has been cancelled as being redundant in view of amended claim 1. Claim 22, which previously depended from claim 20 (now cancelled), has also been cancelled.

Claims 13 and 17 have been amended to reflect the positive recitation of the locking device in parent claim 7. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 7, rather than cancelled claim 20. Claim 17 has been amended to depend from claim 14 rather than cancelled claim 22.

The Rejections:

The 35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

Wu et al.

Claims 1-2, 5-8, 11-12, 14-16, 18, 20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,227,114 to Wu et al. Applicants note that claims 12, 16, 18, 20 and 22 have been cancelled.

Wu et al. discloses a trigger or detonation system including an optical source, an optical fiber, and one or more light trigger or detonation devices.

Amended claims 1, 6, and 7 recite the limitation that the blasting system includes a communication firewall comprising a locking device for placing the communication link in a control mode or an operational mode, an electronic filter and two communication interfaces adapted to allow communication to take place with the communication link. The Wu reference fails to teach a blasting system including a communication firewall comprising a locking device for placing the communication link in a control mode or an operational mode, an electronic filter and two communication interfaces adapted to allow communication to take place with the communication link. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 6, and 7. Since claims 2 and 5 depend from claim 1 and claims 8, 11, and 14-15 depend from claim 7, Applicants further request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 5, 8, 11, and 14-15.

The 35 U.S.C. 103 RejectionsWu et al. in view of Panot et al.

Claims 19, 21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,916 to Panot et al.

Panot et al. relates to a system for aiding the clearing of mines. The system includes a portable processing unit (10) having multimedia capabilities and a software assembly. The software assembly includes software for the management of a data base of various existing mines.

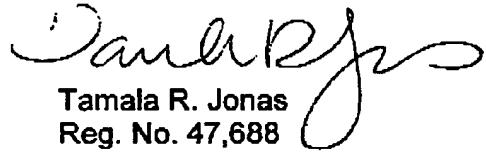
Amended claims 19 and 21 recite the limitation that the blasting system includes a communication firewall comprising a locking device for placing the communication link in a control mode or an operational mode, an electronic filter and two communication interfaces adapted to allow communication to take place with the communication link. The Wu and Panot references both singly and in combination fail to teach a blasting system including a communication firewall comprising a locking device for placing the communication link in a control mode or an operational mode, an electronic filter and two communication interfaces adapted to allow communication to take place with the communication link. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19 and 21. Since claim 23 depends from claim 21, Applicants further request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 23.

Conclusion

All claims being in condition for allowance, passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is due with this submission. If this is incorrect, please charge any required fee, including any fee for extension of time, to deposit account 07-1969.

Respectfully submitted,



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